

COLLECTION OVERVIEW

BUSINESS

I. SCOPE

This overview covers all of the major areas of business, including U.S. and international business and industry, small business, real estate, management and labor, finance and investment, insurance, money and banking, commerce, public finance, and economics. It encompasses largely classes HA-HJ, and parts of T and Z. Other divisions within the Library are responsible for business as it touches specifically on their areas, for example science, music, or serials. The collections covered by this overview reside in the general collections of the Library of Congress and in the reference collections of the Business Reference Section. See also the Collections Policy Statement for Economics and Business.

II. SIZE

The 2007 North American Title Count shows 1,120,289 titles in classes HA through HJ. This includes 29,026 titles classed in statistics (HA), 258,725 titles classed in economics (HB-HC), 141,372 classed in labor (HD4801-8943), 110,390 titles classed in special industries and trade (HD9000-9999), 85,416 titles classed in transportation and communication (HE), 156,794 classed in commerce and business (HF), 112,840 classed in finance (HG), and 59,232 titles classed in public finance (HJ). There are also very large collections of business serials and newspapers in the general stacks, the Serial and Government Publications Division, and the Microform Reading Room. In addition, the Library subscribes to numerous online databases and electronic publications that expand its collections and improve access to important business information.

III. GENERAL RESEARCH STRENGTHS

Because of copyright deposit, collection development guidelines, and retention policies, the Library's collections are particularly strong for their historical research value in all areas of business and economics. They are useful for researching business methodologies, business and market conditions, and specific industries at any given point in time as well as over specified periods of time. In addition to a vast collection of monographs, there are a number of key serial titles, U.S. and foreign, complete back to the mid-19th century. Directories of companies, stock price records, public budgets, and other long-standing periodical publications incorporate a wealth of information on the history of business and of public finance in the U.S. and the rest of the world. Major runs of statistical publications yield extensive national and international demographic and economic data over a long span of time. Census data from the first 1790 Census, and

many individual state censuses, are available. As a result of long-standing exchange programs with foreign governments and academic institutions, the Library has sizable collections of foreign government documents and other publications providing statistical and other data important in the study of their economies. The Library provides access to a number of important business and economics databases allowing full-text retrieval of literature and individualized reporting of statistical data.

IV. AREAS OF DISTINCTIONS/SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Useful and intriguing business materials are also dispersed throughout the special collections of the Library. Several collections in the custody of the Prints and Photographs Division (P&P) yield important graphic materials: the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record, and the photographic collections of *Look Magazine*, the *U.S. News & World Report Magazine*, and the *New York World-Telegram & Sun*. In these and other P&P collections, the researcher can locate photographs, prints, posters, and cartoons of individuals and groups active in business; commercial and industrial activities; industrial facilities; and transportation vehicles and infrastructure. The Manuscript Division (MSS) holds collections of the records of some individual businesses, and numerous collections of the papers of individuals and families that include documents and correspondence about a wide-range of topics in commerce, industry, and finance. Geography and Map Division (G&M) holds original Sanborn Insurance maps, and other communication, transportation and energy cartographic materials that are valuable to business researchers. The Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division (MP&BRS) holds collections relevant to business research. Highlights and detailed descriptions of some of its collections are available online as part of the Library of Congress American Memory collection; for example, 50 Years of Coca Cola Television Advertising and Films of the Westinghouse Works, 1904. Various collections of the American Folklife Center include interviews and songs about working on canals and railroads, lumbering, oil drilling, seafaring, and other important economic activities.

V. ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Whether as individual titles or large commercial databases, electronic resources are increasingly critical to conducting business research. Electronic resources facilitate efficient access to current data and literature, and increasingly, to retrospective literature. The Library obtains individual electronic serial and monograph titles through deposit and purchase. The Library also acquires and provides access to a well-rounded collection of the best available business and electronic databases for use of staff and patrons. The Collections Policy Statement on electronic resources provides detailed guidance for recommending these materials. There are many problems related to acquiring, serving, and archiving and preserving electronic resources, which the Library is working to resolve. For the Library to maintain its traditional breadth and depth of the business and economics collections, it is imperative that such issues be resolved in order to ensure that the Library obtain ownership of, or absolute guarantee of permanent access to, this critical data.

VI. WEAKNESS/EXCLUSIONS

Increasingly, many HA-HJ serials are no longer issued in print, but are only available electronically. Although the Library acquires access to many electronic publications, administrative requirements or technical problems still constrain access to important titles. For example, some electronic resources are not IP accessible while others require the use of proprietary software precluded by security considerations. When online products are statistical compilations or directories, the underlying entity is often a relational database. The Library has not yet solved the many problems limiting its ability to archive and preserve such databases.

The expense and restricted distribution of some business publications, such as financial newsletters and market research reports, limit the Library's ability to acquire them by deposit or purchase. Specific types of publications, such U.S. and foreign manufacturer and trade association publications, and grey literature (e.g. working papers in economics) are not comprehensively represented in the Library's collections.